

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): Are the Government aware that a number of girl-pupils, belonging to Chengannur, are now prosecuting their High School education in distant residential schools?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I thank the member for the unsolicited information.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know the number of girl-pupils in the V Form, and the number in the VI Form, of the Chengannur English High School?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): The total number is 117, in the IV, V and the VI Forms together. There may be about 65 in the IV Form. The rest belonging to the V and the VI Forms.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): I want the separate number for the Fifth Form as well as for the Sixth Form.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I claim notice.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): What will be the approximate annual increase of expenditure if the standard of the Chengannur English Middle School for Girls is raised?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I am afraid, Sir, I have to claim notice. I have not made the calculation.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): It is stated in the answer to part (a) that it was not taken up for want of funds. Without ascertaining the additional expenditure involved, how was it possible for the Government to come to the conclusion that they could not spare the necessary funds for this purpose?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): No detailed calculation of the expenditure involved need be made for that. On a rough calculation, it was considered that this year we could not afford to go in for that.

Irrigation Works in the Chengannur Taluk.

39. ***MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI** (*Tiruvalla III*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent in 1108, 1109 and 1110 respectively by P. W. D. (Irrigation) for improving the irrigation canals in all the *pakuthies* of the old Chengannur taluk;

(b) whether the Irrigation Executive Engineer, Quilon, has received any written representation from the representative of the Chengannur public regarding the urgent necessity of improving the Chengannur-Illimala Canal and the date thereof; and

(c) the action hitherto taken by the Department on such representation?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): (a) 1108 ... Rs. 343-0-0
1109 ... Rs. 2,219-0-0
1110 ... Rs. 7,895-0-0.

(b) Yes, 12-10-1934 and 1-2-1935.

(c) An estimate for the investigation of the work is under the consideration of Government.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): How long has this matter been under the consideration of Government?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): First of all, a rough estimate was made that the work would cost about Rs 24,00. The preparation of the detailed report and revised estimate showed that it involved an expenditure of over Rs. 70,000, and the Government could not then spare that amount for this purpose. I have recently submitted to Government a fresh proposal for investigation on another line. That is being considered by the Government.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): When was the new proposal submitted to Government?

G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): About the middle of June last year.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): Are the Government aware of the favourable reply that they gave to representation No. 48 (relating to this matter) made at the 18th session of the old Sri Mulam Popular Assembly?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): Yes.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): Are they aware of a similar reply given at the 23rd session of the old Sri Mulam Popular Assembly?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I claim notice.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I point out to the member that the Government, in their D. Dis. No. 2175 of 9-12-1929—

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): It is 9-10-1929 and not 9-12-1929.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): Are the Government aware that, in their D. Dis. No. 2175 of 9-10-1929, they actually accorded administrative sanction for the widening and improvement of this canal?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): They must be aware of that. The fact that I have been able to correct the date of the communication referred to by the member shows that.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I ask whether a survey of the canal was not made so early as in 1099?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): All along the member was giving dates in the Christian era and all the dates that I have are also in the Christian era. He now gives a date in the Malayalam era. While I am anxious to give as much information as I can, I am sorry that I am not in possession of date in the Malayalam era. I would therefore request the member to refer me to dates according to the Christian era.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I draw the attention of the member that, even so early as during the sixth session of the old Legislative Council, in reply to question No. 149, Government gave the very same answer on this matter as they have now given to part (c) of the present question?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): That makes it clear that my present answer is the proper one.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): What are the reasons for this long delay in deciding the question?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): It is rather a big question. As I have already explained, in 1929, a rough estimate was prepared, and it was thought that it would cost only Rs. 24,000. The preparation of a detailed estimate showed that it would cost something more than Rs. 70,000, which the Government were not then prepared to spare for this purpose. A fresh proposal has now been made, and is under the consideration of Government.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): How long will it take for the Government to come to a final conclusion in the matter?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I claim notice, Sir.

Newspaper articles on Government officers.

40. ***MR. K. PADMANABHAN** (*Chirayinkil I*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they take note of reports appearing in newspapers containing complaints against their officers; and

(b) what action they take upon such reports?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(a) Yes.

(b) Enquiries are made through proper channels whether there is any truth in the reports and then due notice is taken according to the circumstances of the cases.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Who brings these newspaper reports to the notice of the Government?